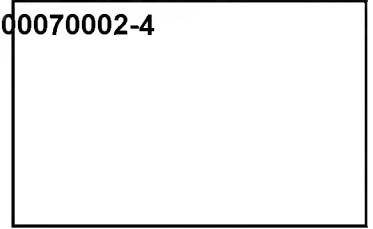




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National Intelligence Daily (Cable)

8 May 1979

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BRIEFS AND COMMENTS

ITALY: Terrorism

The campaign for the Italian parliamentary election early next month--although barely under way--has already been marked by a dramatic increase in terrorist activity. The Red Brigades--the country's most feared terrorist organization--have initiated a campaign of violence with armed attacks against several minor officials and local Christian Democratic party headquarters. [REDACTED]

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The Red Brigades evidently hope to prove that recent police roundups of suspected terrorists and the discovery of their hideouts have not impaired the organization's ability to strike. The ideological dimension of their activity is suggested by a slogan the Red Brigades painted on the walls of the local Christian Democratic Party offices in Rome during a recent attack: "Transform the electoral fraud into a class struggle." The Red Brigades seek to provoke the state to repressive actions that they hope will result in some sort of revolutionary uprising and, ultimately, a civil war. The terrorists also think violence is the only way to jolt the "revisionist" Italian Communist Party back onto a revolutionary path. [REDACTED]

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//The terrorist group might try another "spectacular" like the kidnaping and assassination last year of Christian Democratic leader Aldo Moro. [REDACTED]

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RHODESIA: Sithole's Boycott

Reverend Ndabaningi Sithole and 11 other members of his party refused to take their seats in the new Rhodesian parliament yesterday as part of Sithole's protest against alleged irregularities in the elections last month. The protest is an embarrassment to the other internal leaders, who want to project the image of a "government of national unity." Sithole's charges appear to have little substance and probably will not be upheld by Rhodesian authorities. The allegations reflect Sithole's frustration over his party's poor showing at the polls and an attempt to bargain for better positions in the new government. Sithole may instead be closing off his political options. Rival party leader Bishop Muzorewa has been looking for some time for an excuse to exclude Sithole from the government.

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IRAQ: Dismissal of Communist Minister

Iraqi President Bakr fired the remaining Communist member of the cabinet last weekend, intensifying the feud that over the past year has resulted in virtual suppression of Iraqi Communists by the government's Baathist leadership. Stripping the Communists of their nominal membership in the ruling Popular and Progressive National Front, the remaining symbol of Baathist-Communist cooperation, could be the next move. This would deny the party what little political protection it now enjoys for overt activity and drive it underground. Many Communists have already gone into hiding in Iraqi Kurdistan, where the party has long had good contacts. The Soviets object to the repression of the Iraqi Communists, but they would not jeopardize relations with Iraq by publicly expressing their unhappiness.

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ZAIRE: Increasing Crime in Shaba

Increasingly frequent attacks on Zairians and expatriates by armed bands of criminals are of growing concern to Lubumbashi residents, already worried about what will happen after the departure of the Inter-African Force--set to begin on 30 June. In a meeting last week with heads of consular missions in the city, Shaba's regional commissioner, General Singa, virtually conceded that the government could not deal with the lawlessness. As the ineffective Zairian Army begins to replace Inter-African Force units, the crime rate throughout Shaba probably will increase. Even without the threat of another invasion of the region, internal stability--strained by unemployment, inflation, unpaid salaries, and shortages of necessities--could break down and non-Zairian specialists could flee again. [REDACTED]

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CHAD: Planned Nigerian Recognition

Nigeria, which has played a major role in attempting to mediate the protracted dispute between Chad's northern Muslims and southern Christians, plans to recognize Chad's newly installed transition government soon, according to a senior official in the Nigerian Ministry of External Affairs. The official also indicated that Nigeria would shelve efforts to mediate the dispute and withdraw its peacekeeping force from Ndjamena. These plans suggest that Nigeria may try to use the installation of the new government as a convenient way to withdraw from a complicated, no-win situation. France is the only major foreign power involved in Chad that has not been heard from concerning recognition--Libya announced its refusal early last week. [REDACTED]

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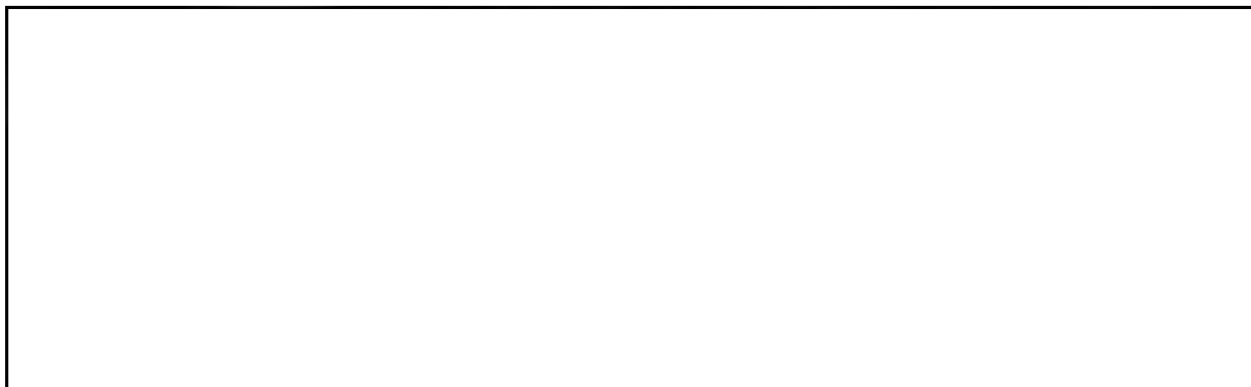
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POLAND: Dispute over Fees for Journalists

Polish authorities have reversed an earlier decision to charge all foreign journalists a \$350 fee for press services during the Papal visit early next month. Instead, journalists may opt to pay only for those services they wish to use. Warsaw's partial retreat reflects a sensitivity to Western criticism that the compulsory fee was contrary to the Helsinki Agreements' provisions on journalistic freedoms. 

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